

ALFALFA HAY PRODUCTION IN FRESNO COUNTY

Cost Analysis Worksheet - 1980

Sample costs to produce alfalfa hay in Fresno County. Field labor \$4.50 per hour and equipment operator \$5.50 per hour total costs to the grower. Wheel diesel tractor per hour cash costs \$6.00, depreciation \$2.60 and interest \$1.85.

Costs are based on a yield of 8½ tons per acre, with a 3 year stand life.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Ton	Per Acre	Per Ton
Pre-Harvest Cash Costs:				
Irrigate 13 times: labor 8 hrs.	\$ 36.00			
4½ ft. water at \$12.00	54.00			
* Fertilize: 44 lbs. actual phosphorous	23.40			
Bulk spreading	2.75			
Weed control: herbicide and application (3)	16.00 (13)			
Insect control: total cost (6)	13.00 (7)			
Taxes	11.00			
Repairs, except tractor	15.00			
Misc. labor, materials and 1 hour tractor	14.50 300			
Office and business costs: 9% of cash costs	28.95			
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS	214.60	25.25		
Harvest Costs:				
Cut and swath: contract \$4.50 per ton	38.25			
Bale: contract \$9.00 per ton	76.50			
Roadside: contract \$2.50 per ton	21.25			
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS	136.00	16.00		
TOTAL CASH COSTS	350.60	41.25		
Depreciation:				
Irrigation system & equipment \$260 cost, 16 years	16.25			
Tractor: 1 hr.	2.60			
Stand: \$184.16 cost, 3 yrs.	61.39			
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	80.24	9.44		
Interest on Investment at 12%:				
Irrigation system: ½ cost, \$130	15.60			
Tractor: 1 hr.	1.85			
Stand: ½ cost \$92.08	11.05			
Land: \$900	108.00			
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	136.50	16.06		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	567.34	66.75		

No allowance has been included for the cost of management..

No income from sheep grazing has been included, although this is sometimes earned by hay growers.

* $P \times 2.29 = P_{205}$ (500 lbs. of single super phosphate or 218 lbs. of treble super phosphate per acre).

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ALFALFA HAY PRODUCTION

Sample Costs of Production at Varying Yields - 1980

WATER - \$12.00/acre ft.

Yield: Tons Per Acre	Average				Exceptional	
	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cash Costs Per Ton	\$51.77	\$46.66	\$42.83	\$39.84	\$37.46	\$35.51
Total Costs Per Ton	87.89	77.62	69.92	63.93	59.13	55.21

Sample Costs of Production at Indicated Yields
Per Acre With Varying Water Costs

Yield: Tons Per Acre	Total Cost* of Alfalfa Hay Per Ton at the Indicated Water Cost Per Acre Foot			
	\$32.00	\$87.00	\$18.00	\$22.00
Cash Cost	66.77	108.02		
6			101.42	105.02
Total Cost	102.89	144.14		
Cash Cost	59.51	94.87		
7			89.20	92.28
Total Cost	90.48	125.83		
Cash Cost	54.08	85.01		
8			80.06	82.76
Total Cost	81.17	112.11		
Cash Cost	49.84	77.34		
9			72.94	75.34
Total Cost	73.93	101.43		
Cash Cost	46.46	71.21		
10			67.25	69.41
Total Cost	68.13	92.88		
Cash Cost	43.69	66.19		
11			62.58	64.54
Total Cost	63.39	85.89		

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* Investment per acre in the irrigation system was assumed to be constant in this table.